高井戸あけみ
なまにこたえる10まで
花音
COMICS

ISBN978-4-8322-8535-4

C9979 ¥600E

雑誌　51355-69

定価：本体600円＋税

大雨の夜、部屋の鍵を無くした加納晃は、隣室のお人好しなリーマン水尾に付け込んで、その夜の寝床を手に入れた。

真っ当で気弱そうな雰囲気の水尾。

けれさ、ベランダで洗りそうになった加賀見を助け上げ、置れたカラダを放さなかった水尾の唇は、

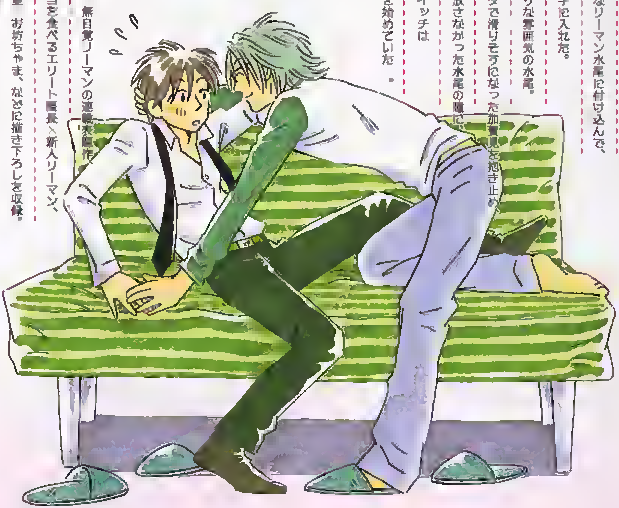
加賀見の欲望スイッチは

カウントダウンを始めていた。

年下眼鏡大学生×無自覚リーマンの運命表紙作。

他、ラスリー弁当を食べるエリート課長×新人リーマン、クールな社長秘書×お坊ちゃま、なさに堪えて下ろしを収録。

頭の脳髄がとろけるハッピーラブス作品集♥



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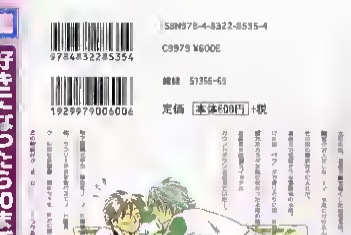
好きになったら10まで数えろ

高井戸あけみ



花音携帯サイトOPEN♪ はしくは帯折り返しを見てっ

絶賛発売中
恋の駆け引きは、
難しすぎて、
ラブコメディ
イジワル
近刊案内
難しすぎる恋は
ラブ

お人好しリーマンは挑発的!!

高井戸あけみ

花音携帯サイトOPEN! 携帯でマンガが読めちゃう!
「花音Bros.と花バイル」 http://www.hanabeil.ne.jp/

HANAOTO COMICS

◆高井戸あけみ
プリンスチャーミング[全③巻]
マイ・ボディーガード
恋愛の神様に言え
好きになったら10まで数えろ
◆佳門サエコ／花王呑子
育様合体計画
痴漢ダイアリー
君主の愛は夜に華咲く
蜜の詰まった上司
◆鷹丘モトナリ
好きなんだけど
◆藤崎こう
ひねくれ純愛
デリシャスボーイ
おとめな奴ら
ハッピーヤローウエディング♥
美しき獣たち。
・ヴァージンラブ。
虜になった一獣
一純愛の青年
獣は愛で、蘭される。
プレイボーイ・アムール。
濡れる獣の恋人。

CitaCita SERIES

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GP学園生徒会執行部①
◆富士山ひょうた
下弦の月夜の物語①

SCAN SOURCE UNKNOWN

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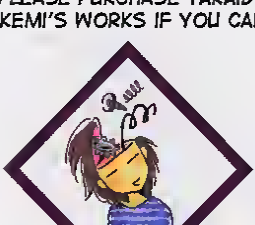
PLEASE PURCHASE TAKAIDO
AKEMI'S WORKS IF YOU CAN!!



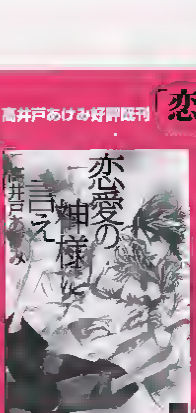
AKEMI◆TAKAIDO

高井戸あけみ

PROFILE

家中の家電が中途半端に
調子悪いような
一気に来るのはやめてくれ…

高井戸あけみ好評既刊「恋愛の神様に言え」



学園のアイドル竜崎幸生はオレ様な指導力を発揮する陸上部部長の高校2年生。そんな無敵の竜崎を悩ますのは、親友・淳平と部員・小桜の恋愛関係、そして校庭のすみにあるプール。放課後、誰もいないプールでひとり泳ぎ続ける谷戸淳の水飛沫の音が、心地よく響くのは何故なんだろう――。
描き下ろしスペシャルマンガをプラスした、初恋の甘く切ない香りに溢れる学園アスリートラブ。

COUNT UP TO 10 WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE 3

A GENTLEMAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS 75

THE LIPS OF AN ADULT 107

NO FLOWERS IN THE FEBRUARY FOREST 139

THE MAN WHO MISSED OUT ON HAPPINESS 171

好きになったら10まで数えろ1

COUNT UP TO 10 WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE (PART 1)

<SHAA>
STEP
STEP
STEP
SPLASH

WELL, I THOUGHT I'D ASK. BYE.
CLINK
I TOLD YOU, HE LEFT FOR A MONTH-LONG BUSINESS TRIP EARLIER TODAY.
HUH ?
301
MIZUNO
NASTY OUT, HUH. AND I CAN'T EVEN...
DRIP
EVENING.
CLOSE
EVENING.

302
301
A SALARYMAN WOULD KEEP A FOLDING CHAIR AROUND, WOULDN'T HE?
SO WHY AM I NOT IN MY PLACE?
I CAN'T GET IN WITHOUT A KEY...
.....
OH... I'M NOT SKETCHY...
I MOVED IN HERE LAST WEEK WITH A COUPLE OF FRIENDS.
YEAH, WELL, THE DAY WE MOVED IN...
...SOME GUY GOT COMPLETELY SHIT-FACED AT THE HOUSEWARMING PARTY AND BROKE A FEW WINDOWS IN THE LOBBY. THEY HATE US NOW.
301
MIZUO
CALL THE PROPERTY MANAGERS.

STEP
301
HEY...
I REALLY THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE KICKED OUT ON OUR FIRST DAY.
MY FLATMATE IS ON A DATE I CALLED HIM, BUT HE WON'T BE HOME UNTIL LATE.
BROKEN
OH... THAT.
?
...IT'S A LITTLE CHIL—
AW, THIS SUCKS!
I COULD GET INTO MY OLD PLACE FROM THE PORCH NEXT DOOR.

WATCH OUT!
SLIP
MAYBE THERE'S SOME SCAFFOLDING AROUND HERE.
YOU DO THIS ON A REGULAR BASIS?

.....

I GIVE UP IT'S WET OUT HERE..
...AND DANGER-OUS.
THANKS.
YOU LIVE ALONE?
YEAH.
YOU MUST BE RAKING IT IN TO AFFORD THE RENT, HUH.
IT'S PROBABLY THE SAME AS NEXT DOOR.
YEAH, WELL, I'M BROKE, SO...
HUH?

PATRICK IS A MANGAKAZURA.
.....
ARE YOU LOOKING AFTER HIS CATS?
MY FRIEND HAS A JOB, BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO FIND ANOTHER ROOMMATE AND TAKE CARE OF PATRICK AND THE OTHERS WHILE HE'S AWAY ON AN EXTENDED BUSINESS TRIP.
HE SAID SINCE WE'RE NEAR A UNIVERSITY, IT SHOULD BE EASY TO GET SOMEONE ELSE TO SPLIT THE RENT.
JUNGLE
GREENERY HOUSE PLANTS
THE KANGAROO IVY IS STEFAN, THE SILK JASMINE IS BJORN.
MY ROOMMATE SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT TO USE THEIR NAMES OTHERWISE THEY GET UPSET.
DO THEY LISTEN TO CLASSICAL MUSIC WHILE YOU WATER THEM?
THAT'S RIGHT. THEY SEEM TO PREFER BRAHMS.
BEEP
BEEP
AH!

<MANGAKAZURA IS A TROPICAL PLANT WITH LARGE LEAVES >

UM, LOOKS LIKE THAT DATE IS GETTING EXCITING.
BEEP
CLOSE
HEY! SERI-OUSLY...
WHERE? YOU'RE LEAVING?
GRIN
HE WON'T BE BACK UNTIL MORNING
<GRIN>
<GRIN>
OH, ANYPLACE BUT THE FLOOR IS FINE.
I'm surprised by your reluctant and unexpected kindness!
sigh
IS THE SOFA OKAY?

MIZUO-SAN, RIGHT? I SAW IT ON YOUR DOORPLATE. I'M KAGAMI, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
<SHAA>
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
WAIT

SPLASH
SPLASH
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY TO YOU
GRAB
WE NEED TO TALK.
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
TAP
TAP
TAP
.....
OPEN

GLANCE
I'M OKAY, THANKS.
SOMETHING TO DRINK?
OPEN
OPEN
BEEP
BEEP
I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.
IF YOU WANT TO SHOWER, GO AH—

WHAT?
THAT... IT'S TOO LATE TONIGHT...
BEEP
YES?
BEEP
BEEP
WHERE?
THIS KIND OF THING... BOTHERS ME.

!?
.....
YOU FORGOT THIS.
HEY, IS IT ALRIGHT IF I BORROW A TOWEL TOO?
OPEN
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I'M TWISTED NOW!
I'VE TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME ON TO ME!

I SEE HOW IT IS.
OPEN
SLAM

BUT HE WAS GLARING AT ME LIKE HE UTTERLY MIS-UNDERSTO--
IT DOESN'T MATTER!!
HE JUST CAME BY TO DROP SOMETHING OFF.
...HE DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN OFF.
UMM...
THAT IS...
...WHETHER HE MISUNDERSTOOD OR NOT.
sigh
HE'S JUST A KOUHAI FROM WORK.
HE'S MARRIED.
HE'S... CONFUSED ABOUT SOMETHING...

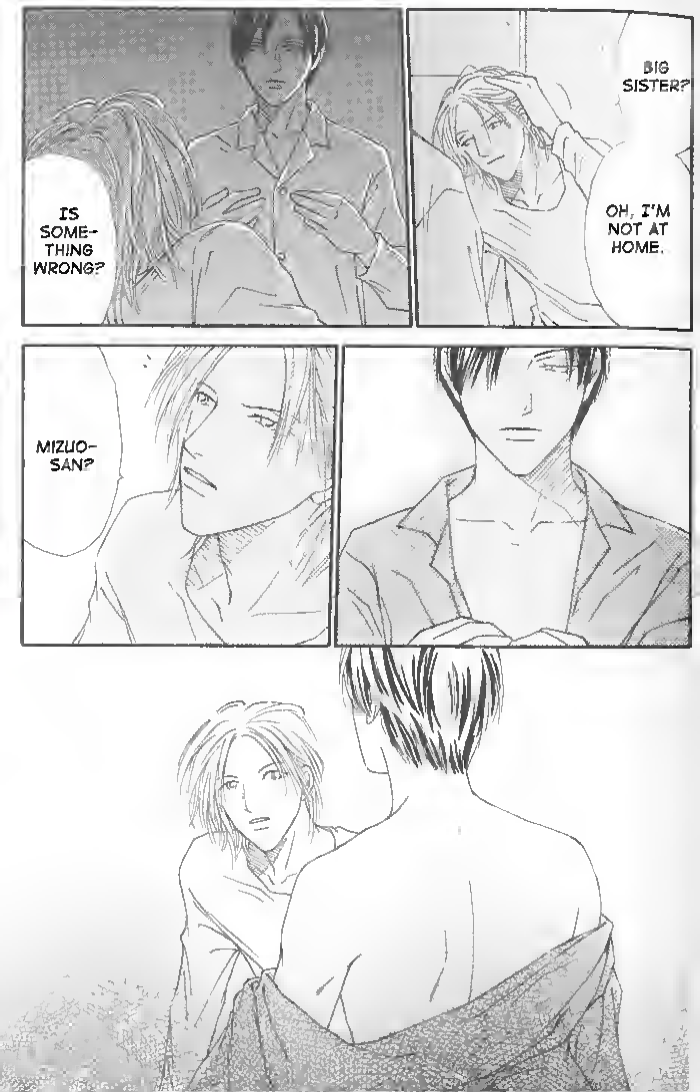
HUH?
ARE YOU OKAY?
...BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT FROM HIM.
UM—
I'VE BEEN BUSY LATELY...
I WAS THINKING YOU LOOK PALE
ARE YOU UNDER STRESS? FATIGUED?

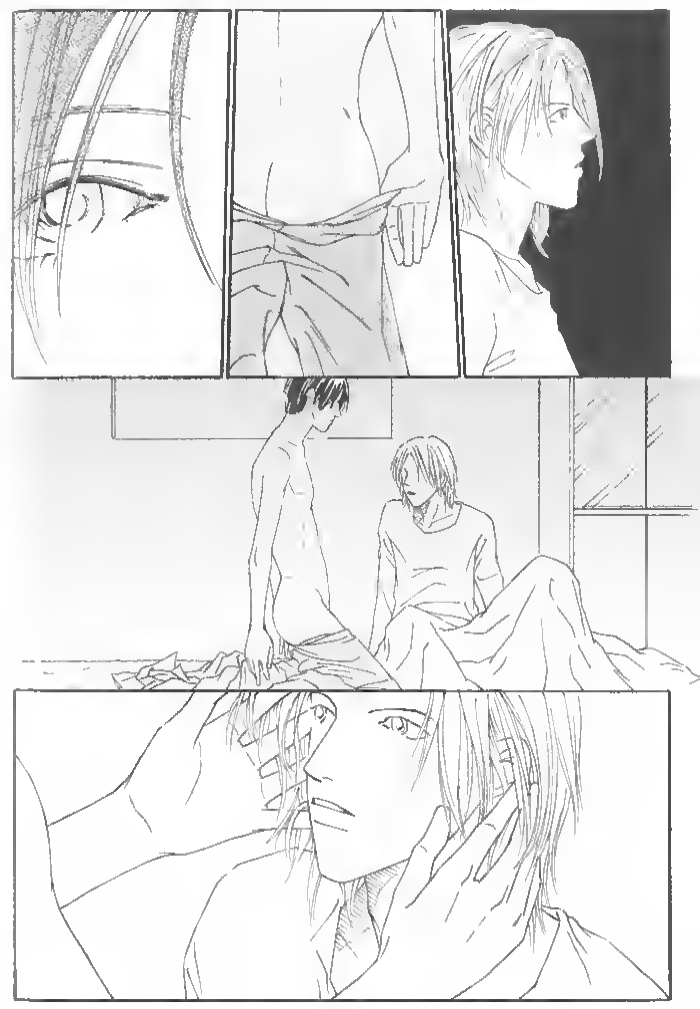
YOU SHOULD GO TO BED SOON.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT SLEEPY, LIE DOWN AND LET YOUR BODY STRETCH OUT...
...AND CLOSE YOUR EYES.
.....
NOTHING.
WHAT IS IT?
HE HAS A CALMING PRESENCE.
OH...
...IF YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT TOWEL,
I'LL FIND YOU SOMETHING TO WEAR.

RUSTLE
whew
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
.....
HEY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS, BUT I'M GAY
WHAT...?
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY, IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING.

CLOSE

.....
MM...


IS SOME-THING WRONG?
BIG SISTER?
OH, I'M NOT AT HOME.
MIZUO-SAN?



MM...
KISS
SLURP

FLOMP
DROP
ZZZ
MIZUO-SAN?

COUNT UP TO 10 WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE (PART 2)

好きになったら10まで数えろ2

YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
.....
BUT... I WOKE UP RIGHT IN MY BED.
I PICKED YOU UP AND CARRIED YOU IN.

I PUT THEM BACK ON YOU.
FIRST TIME?

.....
I'M NOT SURE.
HAS THIS HAPPENED BEFORE?
HUH..?
I WAS DREAMING
DREAMING?
I DREAMED...

I REALLY AM. MY ROOMMATE TOO.
.. ARE YOU REALLY ...GAY?
HE LIKES ATTRACTIVE MEN. HE MIGHT SERIOUSLY BE IN LOVE THIS TIME AROUND.
HE'S DOOMED!
Heh heh!
Oh,
A MAN, OF COURSE.
THEN HIS DATE..
A GOOD-LOOKING GUY
UH... NOTHING.
JUST... TALKING ABOUT THEM LIKE IT'S THE SAME AS A MAN AND A WOMAN.
WHAT IS IT?

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
Yeah.
.....
SORRY, I'M NOT USED TO HEARING— I MEAN, IT SOUNDS STRANGE TO ME
I.. I GUESS IT IS.
IT IS THE SAME
LOOK, MY MOUTH IS SHUT TIGHT.
NOT ..
..THAT I DISLIKE HEARING YOU TALK ABOUT IT.
HM?

THAT GUY LAST NIGHT.. WE WENT ON A BUSINESS TRIP TOGETHER LAST WEEK, AND ONE NIGHT...
.....
WELL, ONE MORNING, I WOKE UP WITH HIM.
AND A MINUTE LATER I DECIDED I MUST BE CRAZY
IF IT WAS THE SAME AS WHAT YOU DID WITH ME LAST NIGHT, IN THE END I RESISTED, BUT I'M ONLY HUMAN
AH
So that's it.
HUH?
I put up a good fight.
But I really wanted to.
OH, NOTHING, NOTHING
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT. I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AT ALL

SOME-BODY...
...A MAN IS CHASING ME...
...SLOWLY BUT SURELY HE'S CATCHING UP TO ME...
ah!
HM? YEAH.
ABOUT WHAT?
.....
DID YOU DREAM THAT NIGHT ON YOUR BUSINESS TRIP?
ah!
...h...
ah...
ah
...ah
YOU HAD THAT SAME DREAM LAST NIGHT?
HOW DID YOU FEEL PHYSI-CALLY?
SO WHEN YOU WOKE UP YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER ANY-THING.
WORN OUT. I ALWAYS FEEL THE SAME AFTER THAT DREAM.
I DON'T REMEMBER IT VERY WELL.
THAT'S HOW IT FEELS.

DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE SLEEP-WALKING?
MM. ISN'T SLEEPWALKING A CHILDHOOD THING, THOUGH?
.....
YEAH.
IS IT?
I'M PRETTY SURE. I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE TOO.
OH, I KNOW A GUY AT THE UNIVERSITY I CAN ASK.
THANKS

IF YOU WOULD.
YOUR BOYFRIEND... HE'S NOT YOUR TYPE HE DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
HE'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND
THAT'S NOT..
JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH HIM LIKE YOU DID WITH ME?

SLEEPING WITH ME?
YOU STILL DON'T REMEMBER?
MIZUO-SAAAN, IT'S YOUR CLIENT.
ON MY WAY.

<"MY BAD!" x 3>

YOSHIMI-KUN, I RECALL YOU SAYING YOU HAD SOME QUESTIONS FOR ME.
I WAS IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD SO I STOPPED BY.
SORRY, I'VE JUST RETURNED FROM SEVERAL HOSPITALS.
I BELIEVE I HAVE A SLIGHT PHYSICAL CONDITION.
AND YOU SUDDENLY COLLAPSED OUT FRONT.
SORRY I PICKED SUCH A BAD SPOT.
UM...MAY I HAVE TWO OR THREE GLASSES OF WATER, PLEASE?
TWO OR THREE GLASS-ES?
STRANGE KID, HUH.
THIS WILL BE INTERESTING. HE'S OUR SCHOOL'S MIRACLE-CURE KID.
HIS KNOWL-EDGE ABOUT DISABILITIES IS TOPS.
TOSS

...SO ORDINARILY NO TREATMENT IS NEEDED.
THEY CAN READ A BOOK BEFORE BED TO EASE ANXIETY...
POP
Winding around...
THEIR DEVELOPING BRAINS ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF FORMING SYNAPSES WHICH CONNECT NEURONS...
GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG
IT'S TRUE, WE'RE TOLD THAT CHILDREN USUALLY GROW OUT OF SLEEPWALKING
...AND IF THEY GET OUT OF BED HALF-ASLEEP,
A PARENT CAN GENTLY RETURN THEM TO THEIR FUTON.
SLICK SLICK
...LIE DOWN AND RELAX.
...HE WAS RANTING AND RAVING?
NEVERMIND. I'D RATHER NOT DESCRIBE THE VICTIM, BUT I APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION.
Nothing to see here.
SK SK
THAT ACQUAINTANCE ISN'T AROUND.
WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID ABOUT YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, YOSHIMI-KUN...?
SO HOW ABOUT A HALF-ASLEEP ADULT?

<*NATURAL NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT FOR ILLNESS-RELATED FATIGUE>

GARLIC RESTORATIVE DRINK
POP
IT COULD BE CAUSED BY HEAVY ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION, OR A PERIOD OF SEVERE STRESS
HM, MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF R.E.M. SLEEP DISORDER?
DURING NIGHTMARES, THE BRAIN BECOMES OVER-STIMULATED, AND ITS ABILITY TO SUPPRESS MOVEMENT IS REDUCED
SUCK
WELL, SAY YOUR BOSS IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR STRESS...
...IT SEEMS A JOB CHANGE WOULD BE THE CURE.
HMM, SO IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHAT CAN BE DONE?
SO IF YOU'RE KICKING YOUR BOSS IN A DREAM...
SOURCE OF STRESS
FAMILY
...THE BEHAVIOR ACTUALLY OCCURS WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING, AND YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF IT.

FOR SEVERE CASES THEY USE MEDICATION OR THERAPY SO...
Hmm
...IN OTHER WORDS, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO REMOVE THE SOURCE OF THE STRESS?
.....
BUT AREN'T YOU A MEDICAL SCHOOL STUDENT?
I WOULD AVOID DOCTORS IF MY LIFE WEREN'T HANGING BY A THREAD.
BUT DON'T LISTEN TO ME...
Typical patient.
...I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE A DOCTOR IN MY CONDITION.
Argh! So Annoying!!
HUH?
I MUST STRUGGLE ONWARD IN MY QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE!
There must be ragweed around here.
MUTTER
Good luck.

How about some coffee.
Sure.
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T COMPLETELY DECIDED YET, LIKE THAT GUY WHO WAS HERE.
WELL, IT FELT THAT WAY.
...I CHANGED MY MIND.
IT TURNED INTO YOUR FATHER'S AMBITION?
YOU SHOULD BE A DOCTOR.
I DON'T KNOW... I THOUGHT ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS A KID, BUT WHEN MY FATHER SUGGESTED IT...
STEP
NOW THERE'S A PREG-NANT PAUSE.
POUR
PFFF
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE THE KIND OF DOCTOR WHO...
WELL, HE..
... HATES GOING TO THE HOSPITAL WHEN HE NEEDS HELP WITH PAIN OR SUFFERING.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU.. I THINK YOU GIVE PEOPLE A FEELING OF REASSURANCE.
BUT...

THAT'S SOMETHING A PERSON CAN'T ACQUIRE THROUGH STUDYING.
IT MAY MEAN YOU'RE CUT OUT TO BE A DOCTOR.
SHAA
ANYWAY, SOMEHOW IT JUST STRIKES ME THAT WAY.
THANK YOU.
OH YEAH, IS SOMETHING CAUSING YOU STRESS?
SO...
...AN R.E.M. SLEEP DISORDER

BUT YOU CAN IF YOU WANT.
HEY...
...IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME.
.....
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
CLINK
WHY TAKE SUCH AN INTEREST IN GETTING TO KNOW ME? NOT THAT I MIND.
MY EXPER-TISE IS IN LYING AROUND READING OR WHATEVER
heh heh

FOR SOME REASON
.. I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU.
WHO GRA-CIOUSLY DID ME THE KIND-NESS OF PUTTING ME UP FOR A NIGHT.
YOU'RE MY NEIGHBOR,
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I'M ATTRACTED TO YOU.
YOU'RE JUST MY TYPE.

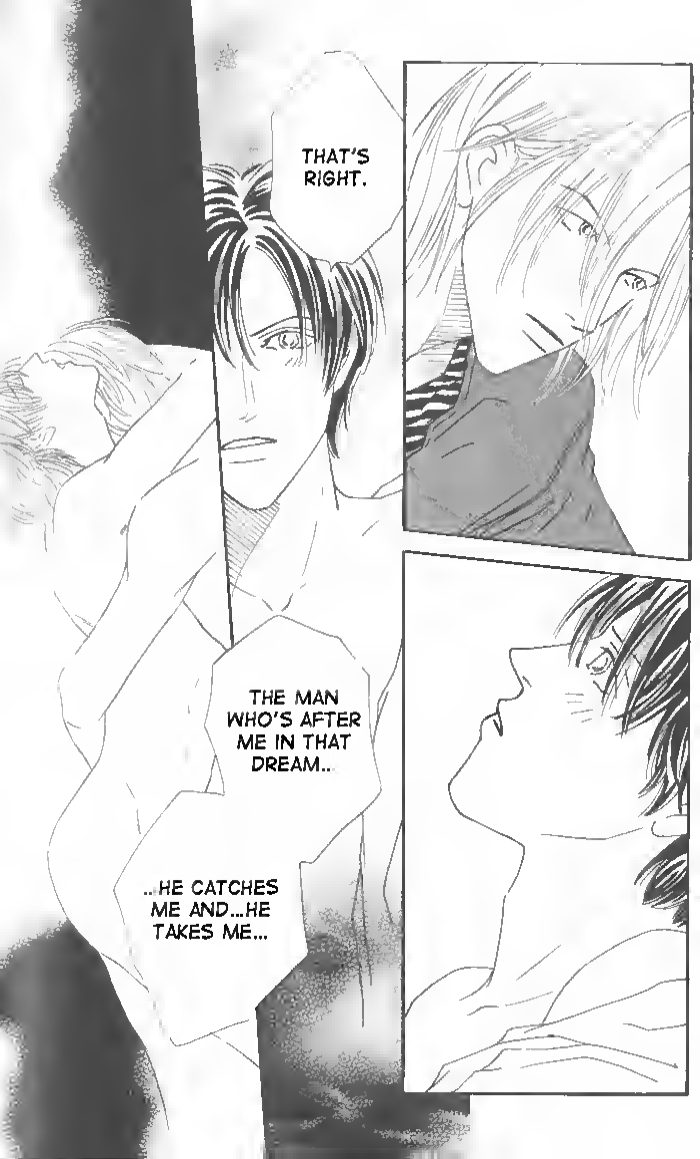
...
YOU'RE AWAKE, RIGHT?
WON'T YOU... TAKE ME IN YOUR ARMS?

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T... SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
DID YOU HEAR ME? I EVEN SAID YOU'RE MY TYPE
LICK
SUCK

NGH...

.....
.....?
IS IT STRESSING YOU OUT?
IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE BEEN AWAKE WHILE DOING THIS KIND OF THING WITH A MAN?

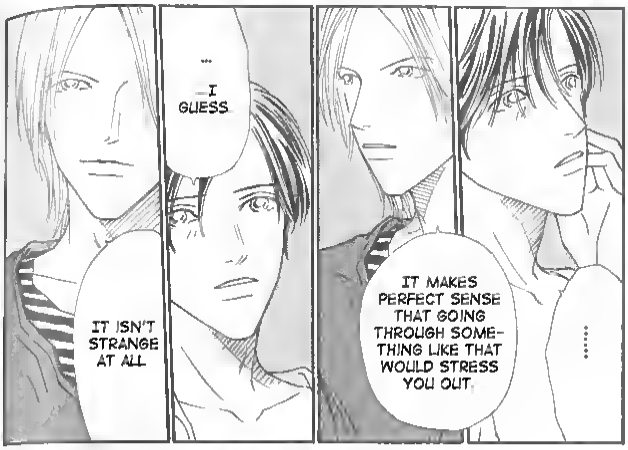
COUNT UP TO 10
WHEN YOU FALL
IN LOVE (PART 3)

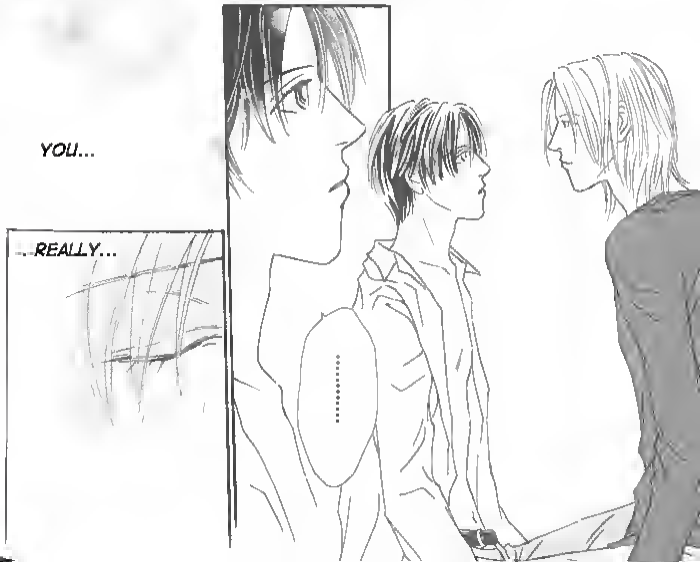

THAT'S RIGHT.
THE MAN WHO'S AFTER ME IN THAT DREAM..
..HE CATCHES ME AND...HE TAKES ME...

...AND...I COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING BEFORE...
BUT THAT WAS ONLY A DREAM! NOW IT'S TURNING INTO REALITY...
HE WON'T LET ME GO...I FEEL LIKE I'M MELTING AWAY...
I CAN HEAR MYSELF MOANING.
...WHY NOW... WHY DOES THIS...WHY AM I...
...WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
GRAB

...ON GRADUATION DAY MY SENPAI...
IN HIGH SCHOOL...
EVEN THOUGH I WAS LAUGHING AT A JOKE...
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
HE HUGGED ME TIGHTLY.
..AND TEARS ROLLED DOWN MY CHEEKS AS HE LEFT.
...I HAD LONGED FOR HIM...
...AND SUDDENLY MY CHEST TIGHTENED.
...SADNESS WASHED OVER ME.

AND THEN...
...HE STARTED IN OUR DEPARTMENT.
I DIDN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT. I EVEN DATED GIRLS A FEW TIMES.
HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE THOSE FEELINGS FOR ANOTHER BOY?
FOR THE FIRST TIME I BECAME CONSCIOUS...
...OF ANOTHER MAN'S ATTRACTION TO ME.
HE HAD THAT...
...REACTION.
MAYBE I MISUNDERSTOOD. MAYBE I'M JUST STRANGE.
BUT HE'S MARRIED.
THAT'S WHEN YOU STARTED HAVING THAT DREAM?
YOUR ANXIETY OVERWHELMED YOUR PROCESSING CAPACITY.


IT ISN'T STRANGE AT ALL
...
I GUESS...
IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE THAT GOING THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD STRESS YOU OUT.
.....


YOU...
...REALLY...
.....

WE'RE NOT GOING TO SLEEP TOGETHER?
TOO BAD THROWING AWAY THIS CHANCE WILL HAUNT ME TO MY DYING DAY.
hmph
OKAY. IT'S A SHAME, BUT WE NEED TO STOP
I THINK I ALMOST FORGOT THAT WHEN SOMEONE IS EMOTIONALLY DRAINED,
YOU DON'T HAVE SEX WITH HIM.
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS... IT'S IMPORTANT.
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU'LL BE IN THIS CONDITION, BUT I THINK YOU NEED TO BE WIDE AWAKE BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
THAT'S THE CONVENTIONAL THINKING, ISN'T IT? DESPITE WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ..?
I WANTED TO SLEEP WITH HIM
HUH?

.....
YOU KNOW?
OTHER-WISE...
...YOU'LL WAKE UP FEELING LIKE A WOMAN THE NEXT MORN-ING. SIMILAR SENSATIONS...
I'M SAYING THAT AT TIMES I'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CONDITION
CERTAIN PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS ARE EVIDENT, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT...
MAYBE YOU WERE FAST ASLEEP TOO
.....
SO WHY WOULD HE TELL ME...
...DO WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT HIM?
THAT GUY...

.....
STEP
YOU HAVEN'T HAD YOUR COFFEE.
STEP
MM.
LEAVING?
STEP
OH.
...SORRY, IT WAS BEFORE YOU AND I STARTED TO...
<THUNK>
I CAN ONLY RESTRAIN MYSELF FOR SO LONG.

CLOSE
LATER
JUST MY TYPE—
...REALLY?
NO WAY, HE'S BACK...?
PEEK
DING DONG
DING DONG
DOWN IN THE LOBBY?
<BA-THUMP>
SLIDE

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D LET ME IN.
STEP
YES?
IT'S ME.
I THOUGHT WE SHOULD TALK PROPERLY.
NOTHING HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.
TALK... IS THAT ALL?
I JUST RAN OUT ON A LITTLE CELEBRATION WITH FRIENDS.
YOU... YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
.....
YOU WERE FAST ASLEEP, BUT UNTIL I REALIZED THAT, I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO SEDUCE ME.
WHAT? YOU REMEMBER NOW? I GUESS I JUST HAD THE WRONG IMPRESSION, EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT I WAS LUCKY.

I...FOR A LONG TIME I'VE HAD THOSE TENDENCIES, BUT ..
...I NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO TRY IT OUT
.....
WHY LIE ABOUT IT?
.....
I FOUND YOU COMPLETELY IRRESISTABLE.
HE'S SAYING THE SAME THINGS AS..
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME...YOU'RE SO PRETTY. I WAS INTRIGUED. PEOPLE HAVE REACTIONS
SO THAT'S IT...
HE TOO..
WHAT?
HEY, HOW DO GAY MEN...

WHY DO YOU THINK I'M HERE NOW?
BUT...IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT YOU ANYMORE.
LET ME GO!
YOU JUST GOT MARRIED SIX MONTHS AGO!
WAIT... I'M NOT GOING TO...
WE CAN'T EXACTLY HAVE A RELATIONSHIP,
BUT THAT'S THE ONLY DISADVANTAGE I CAN THINK OF.
HUH? YOU LIKE MEN, RIGHT?
AND AFTER ALL, PEOPLE LIKE YOU HAVE TO KEEP RELATIONSHIPS SECRET ANYWAY.
CUT IT OUT! LET HIM GO!

AH-HA, THERE IT IS.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
SORRY, FORGOT MY CELL PHONE.
WHAT THE .
FORGIVE ME FOR BARGING IN WITHOUT ASKING, THE KEY WAS IN THE DOOR.
NEED A REMINDER THAT YOU'RE EXPECTING SOMEONE?
THAT WHAT IS IT?

THE CELEBRATION WHERE YOU WERE DRINKING ..
YEAH, MY WIFE IS PREGNANT
HUH? OH..
..IT'S EARLY DAYS YET. MY FRIENDS WERE JOKING AROUND
WHATEVER. I WAS DRUNK, BUT I'M TOTALLY SOBER NOW.
IF YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS WHEN THE BABY COMES, YOU WON'T BE MUCH OF A FATHER.
WITH THE BIRTHRATE IN DECLINE, EVEN PEOPLE WHO AREN'T WILLING TO BE FATHERS WANT TO TELL YOU HOW TO BE A DAD.
BLOCK

LEAVE HIM ALONE, AND DON'T COME BACK HERE.
AND PLEASE, BE A GOOD FATHER.
CLOSE
THANKS, I'M FI—
YOU ALRIGHT?

I WONDER IF IT'S POSSIBLE.
THE ONLY DISADVAN-TAGE ..
I WORRY ABOUT WHETHER THAT IDIOT CAN BECOME A DECENT ADULT.
.....
I DON'T HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT IT...
...BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT KIND OF PERSON
AFTER ALL, HIS LIFE WILL BE ROUGH IF HE DOESN'T HAVE A PLACE TO BE HIMSELF.
I...
...HAVE THAT PLACE.
.....

GRAB

I'M NOT SICK, I JUST HAVE SOME R.E.M. THING.
ACCORDING TO AN AMATEUR DIAGNOSIS
FURTHERMORE, IT WAS BROUGHT ON BY THAT GUY WHO JUST LEFT. HE WAS THE SOURCE
DON'T GET ME GOING.
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO BE MORE CONSIDERATE.
I'M THINKING CLEARLY.
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT SOMEDAY WHEN IT'S NOT BOTHERING YOU SO MUCH YOU CAN THINK ABOUT...
YOU SAID I WAS YOUR TYPE... WAS THAT A LIE?
NO. IT'S TRUE.
SO THEN...
.. CAN'T I RELY ON YOU?

THAT'S NOT IT!
FORGIVE ME IF I'M NOT CONVINCED BY THAT KIND OF REASONING.
BECAUSE I'M CONVENIENTLY GAY?
YOU'RE SOMEONE I'VE GROWN TO LIKE... MORE THAN A LITTLE
I'M DISAP-POINTED ALL OVER AGAIN.
I'M SORRY...
HE'S THINKING ONLY OF HIMSELF.
SORRY.

UH, YOSHI, MY PHONE?
SURE, Here ya go.
SANKYU.
IDIOT, DON'T THROW PEOPLE'S PHONES AROUND!
HEY, YOU DIDN'T GIVE KENNETH HIS MEDICINE? I TRUSTED YOU.
DEAD
KENNETH? I GAVE IT TO THOMAS. WELL, WHATEVER.
TYPICAL.
OH, OUR NEIGHBOR? NICE TO MEET YOU.
APPROACH
NICE TO MEET YOU..
NICE TO MEET YOU.
Oh!
THE GORGEOUS PERSON WHO SO RASHLY PROVIDED YOSHI WITH THE LAVISH HOSPITALITY.

DISAPPEAR FOR AN HOUR, DUDE.
AN HOUR, IS THAT ALL?
FINE, MAKE IT TWO HOURS.
...TALKING ABOUT THEM LIKE IT'S THE SAME AS A MAN AND A WOMAN
I'D SAY THEY'RE AT THEIR PEAK, IT'S ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE.
IT IS THE SAME
THEY MAKE A GOOD COUPLE.
CAN I TOO...
...SOMEDAY...
I CAN HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR.
CLOSE
...HAVE A RELATION-SHIP LIKE THAT?

COME IN FOR SOME COFFEE, IF YOU'D LIKE.
.....
SINCE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY BEFORE. I HAVE SOME GOOD COFFEE BEANS.
.....
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE LOCKED OUT
NO WAY. IMPOS-SIBLE
HUH?
I CAN'T TAKE IT-.
—EVEN THOUGH I'M A RESPONSIBLE ADULT.

LET'S GO BUY SOME HOUSE PLANTS
WE'LL SPEND TODAY LAUGHING, BECAUSE TOMORROW WILL BE HERE SOON.
PLEASE...
...STAY WITH ME
END

A GENTLEMAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS
紳士のたしなみ

MY UNREQUITED LOVE CONTINUES, A YEAR AFTER I BEGAN WORKING HERE
YOUNG FOR A CHIEF,
HIS CAREER IS RISING AS FAST AS OUR STOCK PRICE DID AGAIN TODAY.
MUNCH
MUNCH
.....

THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT CHIEF KAIZAKI'S LOVELY BENTO AGAIN TODAY.
HE DOESN'T SOCIALIZE MUCH WITH PEOPLE FROM WORK, MAYBE HE'S JUST A MAN WHO LOVES HIS SOLITUDE.♡
Huh? Don't tell me you're going for him too?
I HEAR HE GAVE THE GIRLS IN THE SECRETARIAL SECTION THE COLD SHOULDER, AS USUAL.
BUT I'M SURE HIS LIFE IS FULFILLING, AND AS SWEET AS HONEY.
EXACTLY! HE DOES THAT EVERY TIME!
WELL, DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE HE WOULD HAVE A GIRLFRIEND TO MAKE HIS BENTO?
REALLY! THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
HIS GIRLFRIEND MUST HAVE MADE IT. HE TOLD ME -WITH A STRAIGHT FACE!- THAT HE MADE IT ALL AND DIDN'T CHEAT.

HAVE A GIRLFRIEND
Look at all those side dishes.
AFTER ALL, HE MUST..
BREAK ROOM
OH!

THAT'S RIGHT I HAVE A VISITOR, AND MY SECRETARY HAS GONE HOME.
HUH? MAKING TEA, CHIEF KAIZAKI?
WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP, SAKUHARA-KUN? YOU MIGHT AS WELL, IT'S FRESH-BREWED.
UM, LET ME DO THAT FOR YOU.
OH NO, I COULDN'T.
IT'S ALREADY DONE.

POUR
POUR
DRINK IT WHILE IT'S HOT.
UHH..
WELL THEN, THANK YOU.
SO CLOSE.
SINCE WE'RE VERY DIFFERENT IN RANK, WE'VE NEVER HAD MUCH CONTACT.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN SO CLOSE TO HIM.
GLANCE

YOU HAVE SOMETHING...
HUH?
BA-THUMP
SLIDE
...RIGHT HERE.

LIPSTICK? IT'S RED...
WHAT? DEFINITELY NOT!
OH...
MY COMPLETE DENIAL JUST POPPED OUT.
THAT'S FROM EARLIER TODAY.
Ha ha!
I MUST HAVE GOTTEN SOME RED INK ON MY HAND, THEN TOUCHED MY COLLAR.
SO IT ISN'T FROM LAST NIGHT?
FFFF
Hee hee!
NO, NOT AT ALL.
SINCE..
..I'M GAY.

THEY'RE IN CONFERENCE ROOM TWO.
AH! ON MY WAY, ON MY WAY.
FINE.
EXCUSE ME, CHIEF...
sigh

HE TOUCHED ME
DAMN...
...I WONDER WHEN...
...MY EARS WILL STOP BURNING.
CHIEF KAIZAKI MAKING HIS OWN TEA.
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
IT'S DELICIOUS!
ARE THE TEA LEAVES DIFFERENT?
USUALLY I GULP DOWN THE TEA THE SECRETARIES MAKE IN THE MORNING.
.....

I MEAN, WHAT THE...!?
DID HE ADD SOME OF HIS PERSONAL CHARISMA TO THIS?
WILL IT RUB OFF ON ME?
A chabashira, at least.
HUH?
Sp
<CHABASHIRA: UPRIGHT-FLOATING TEA STALK CONSIDERED A LUCKY OMEN>
SAKUHARA-KUN, CAN I ASK YOU TO HELP ME WITH SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

WHOA!
YES?
I HAVE SEVERAL URGENT REPORTS THAT NEED TO BE PUT TOGETHER BY THIS EVENING.
IT'S A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW HIM
WHAT A NUISANCE, THOUGH.
IF IT'S A RUSH JOB...
...SAKAMOTO IS USUALLY GIVEN THESE BECAUSE HE'S SO GOOD AT THEM.
THEY'RE IN BAD SHAPE...
.....
AN ANALYSIS OF COMPANY A'S FINANCIAL RECORDS? ...THEY LOOK WEAK
YOUR MANAGER GAVE ME PERMISSION TO BORROW EXTRA MANPOWER.
Of course

...BUT PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IS THE FASTEST WAY TO IMPROVE YOUR EXPERTISE IN A SUBJECT YOU'RE LEARNING ABOUT.
YES, SIR!

HOW DOES HE DO IT?
THIS ATMOSPHERE...
ALTHOUGH WE WERE IN A HURRY, STRANGELY HE DIDN'T SEEM AT ALL ANXIOUS
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT SOMEHOW...
IT WAS MUCH EASIER TO WORK UNDER HIS MANAGEMENT
THERE'S NO WAY AT ALL.
THERE'S LITTLE CHANCE I CAN ACCESS THAT WORLD
WHAT MAKES SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE DIFFERENT?
IS IT HIS PERSONALITY?
IS IT HIS RICH PRIVATE LIFE?

WHAT IS IT? HAVE A QUESTION?
NO!
I'M AT WORK!

BAM
YEAH, WELL THEN... I'LL CALL YOU SOON.
Tell your wife I say hi.

HUH!?
NO WAY!
WELL, WHAT A SURPRISE

I JUST CAME FROM A FRIEND'S PLACE.
THERE'S A GREAT SOBA SPOT NEARBY THAT I GO TO SOMETIMES.
WHERE?
OH—SHIAN.
EVEN IN THOSE, HE'S HANDSOME. ♡
YEAH. HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SOME SHOPPING?
VERY MUCH...! OH, ARE YOU BY YOURSELF?
WOW... FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM IN CASUAL CLOTHES.
UH...
...SURE, OF COURSE.
OH, HOW LUCKY!
OH, I WENT THERE ONCE, IT WAS REALLY GOOD.
IT'S DINNER TIME, HUH. LISTEN, LET'S EAT TOGETHER.

YOU LOOK GOOD IN THAT SWEATER.
HAND-KNITTED, RIGHT?
THIS IS THRILLING, BUT I'M NERVOUS TOO.
SLURP
MM, I KNEW IT WOULD BE GOOD.

...UM, EXCUSE ME, DID THE KITCHEN STAFF CHANGE RECENTLY?
YES, SOMEONE NEW STARTED LAST WEEK.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
IT'S GOOD, BUT...
HUH? IS IT DIFFERENT?
JUST SUBTLY.
YOU MUST HAVE A SENSITIVE PALATE.
IT'S JUST THAT I LIKE TO COOK QUITE A BIT.
AMAZING... I HAVEN'T EATEN HERE ENOUGH TO NOTICE.
WAIT, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'VE ONLY BEEN HERE ONCE?

HUH?
SLU-
WHAT IS IT?
MUNCH MUNCH SWALLOW
NOTHING, SORRY... I HAVE A HARD TIME PICTURING...
mmph
HAZY HAZY
...YOU COOKING, CHIEF KAIZAKI.
I'LL GIVE YOU A MEAL ANYTIME, SAKUHARA-KUN.
I'D LIKE TO TASTE YOUR COOKING.
IT'S SOME-THING I REALLY ENJOY
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
OF COURSE I'D LIKE THAT, BUT...
HE'LL THINK THAT'S FORWARD

WITH HER
UHH
HIS GIRL-FRIEND
I'D HAVE TO EAT
WHAT, YOU DOUBT MY SKILLS? I RARELY GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE THEM, SO I WOULD WELCOME IT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NOTHING UM DON'T YOU
BRING A BENTO TO WORK SOME-TIMES?
DAMN IT, WHAT IS HE DOING?
THAT'S RIGHT I MAKE THEM MYSELF.
WHAT IS IT? I'VE ALWAYS SAID SO
SURE, BUT NO ONE BELIEVED YOU!

HMM, I SEE.
I MEAN...
...WHO ELSE BUT A GIRLFRIEND WOULD PUT SUCH CARE INTO THEM?
...THROW SOMETHING TOGETHER?
THE MUCH-DISCUSSED HANDMADE GIRLFRIEND LOVELY BENTO♡
WELL, TO BEGIN WITH, THEY'RE SO FANCY.
AFTER ALL, WOULDN'T YOU JUST...
IMPOSSIBLE TO ENVISION
SO, YOU HAVE ONE, RIGHT?
MAYBE THIS IS...
...GOING BEYOND POLITE CONVERSATION.
NERVOUS ABOUT SOMETHING?
THAT'S THE RUMOR, ANYWAY.
SINCE YOU'VE TURNED DOWN ALL THE BEAUTIES AT WORK
HE STRIKES BACK.
SHAKE
SHAKE
AH, THAT MAKES SENSE.

I JUST CAME FROM RE-STOCKING MY MATERIALS.
RUSTLE
NO, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE AT ALL
THE MYSTERY OF THE BENTO HAS BEEN UN-RAVELLED, BUT ISN'T THAT A HAND-KNITTED SWEATER?
SLURP
NOT PACKING DOWN
YEAH. I KNITTED IT.
CHEW
I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH TH—
Soba...
...went up my nose.
COUGH
You okay?
<GULP COUGH COUGH CHOKE>

IN OTHER WORDS...
KNIT
KNIT
A MAN WHO LOVES HIS SOLITUDE
...THOROUGHLY DOMESTIC HOBBIES
HE DOESN'T LIKE SOCIALIZING?
That can't be it.

WHY SO QUIET? DISENCHANTED WITH ME?
NO...
...BUT I'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE.

WELL, YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE IN MY SPARE TIME I DO JUST WHAT I LIKE TO DO
AT WORK, I FOCUS ON WORK
THAT'S ALL.

FALLING BACK IN LOVE?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONVINCE ME THAT A MAN NEEDS MORE THAN WORK
whew
YOU... YOU KNEW!?
YOU HAVE QUITE THE PASSIONATE GAZE
OH MY GOD, HOW EMBARRASSING...THE SHAME!!

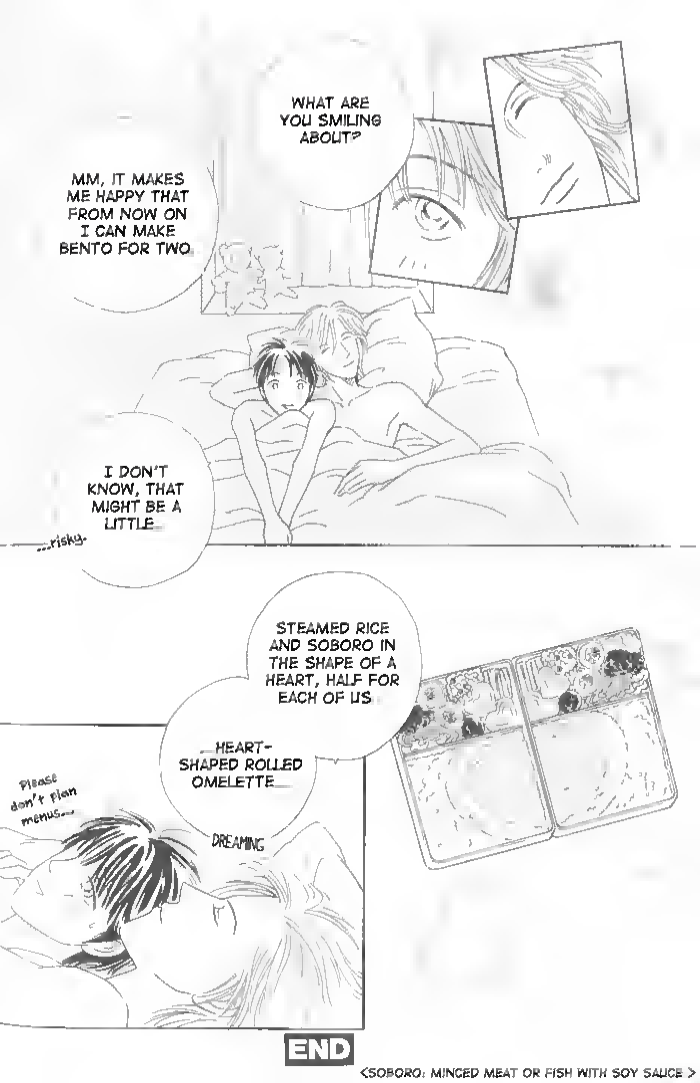
...HE'S REALLY JUST A FRIEND
EARLIER...
...I SAW YOU GETTING OUT OF A MAN'S CAR
UHH...
IT LOOKED THAT WAY
I WONDER WHY HE'S PROBING
DO I PASS THE TEST?
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU DRINK...
OH...OF COURSE. IS THERE A GOOD PLACE AROUND?

I CAN COOK UP SOME TASTY SNACKS AT MY PLACE.
YOU'VE GONE QUIET AGAIN, YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
NO, IT'S GOOD, BUT

HANDMADE RUG
HANDMADE LACE TABLE TOPPER
THIS ROOM IS . . .
BEYOND MY WILDEST IMAGINATION
HAND-MADE BEADED LAMPSHADE
PAINTING DETAIL
HANDMADE TEDDY BEARS
HANDMADE SOFA COVER
THIS IS EVEN BETTER
HANDMADE CUSHION
WHOOSH
REMINDS ME OF A PATCHWORK BED-SPREAD MY GRANNY MADE ME JUST BEFORE SHE DIED
LOOK AT THIS WHOPPER!
IT WAS A BIG PROJECT
HAND-KNITTED BEDSPREAD

WHOA...
UM... HEY...!
OH...
<GRIND>
WE BETTER MOVE IT OUT OF THE WAY SO IT DOESN'T GET DIRTY.
NN...
KISS
MM...!

AH!
NOT MY...
...AHH
PFFT...
YOU'RE ADORABLE
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING...
AHH!
CHIE--
YOU CAN'T!
AHH...
AH


WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?
MM, IT MAKES ME HAPPY THAT FROM NOW ON I CAN MAKE BENTO FOR TWO.
I DON'T KNOW, THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE...
...risky.
STEAMED RICE AND SOBORO IN THE SHAPE OF A HEART, HALF FOR EACH OF US.
HEART-SHAPED ROLLED OMELETTE
DREAMING
Please don't plan menus...
END

<SOBORO: MINCED MEAT OR FISH WITH SOY SAUCE >

THE LIPS OF AN ADULT

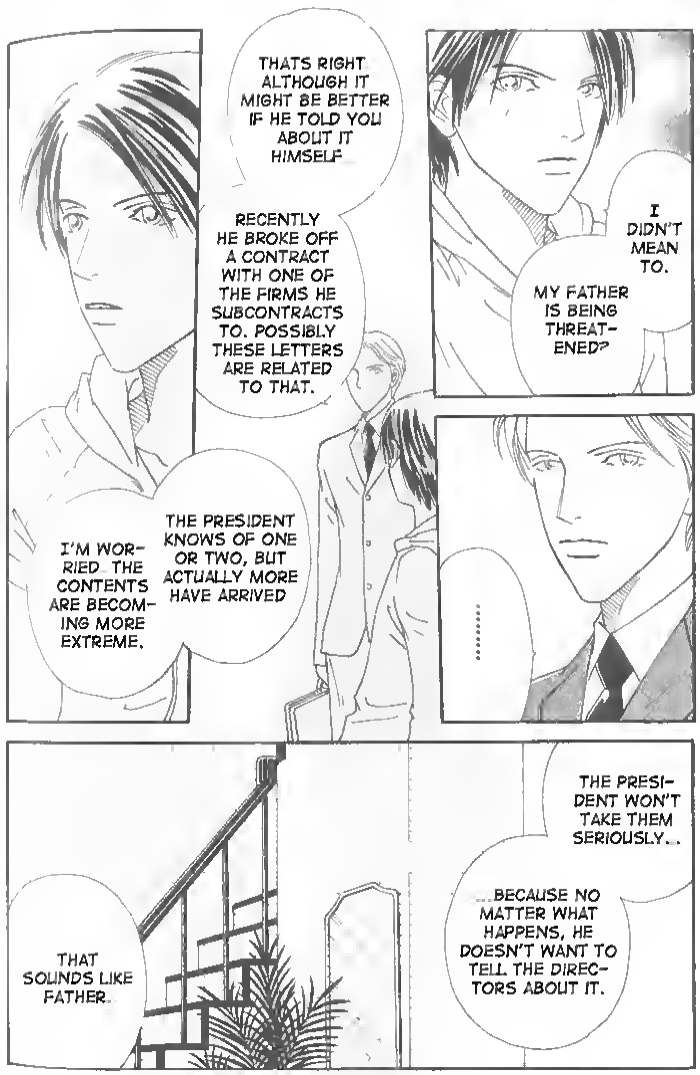
オトナのクチビル

WELCOME HOME.
YOU REMEMBER YOSHIZAKI-SAN.
GOOD EVENING, MADAM.

YES, PRESIDENT.
...THEY'RE IN THE STUDY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN WELL.
THOSE DOCUMENTS I'D LIKE YOU TO HOLD ON TO...
EVENING
GOOD EVENING, KATSUHIRO-SAN

YEAH, I GET IT.
BUT I'LL RECONSIDER IF YOU CAN'T MAINTAIN TOP PLACE THIS YEAR.
YOUR TUTOR WAS DISMISSED BECAUSE YOU SAID HE WAS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING,
I STUDIED ALREADY.
YOU SHOULD BE STUDYING FOR YOUR EXAMS NEXT WEEK.
THAT THING AGAIN, KATSUHIRO?
STEP
STEP
THAT GUY WAS TOO HIGH-STRUNG.

BUT FOR NOW, I'M NOT GOING TO LET ONE OR TWO THREATENING LETTERS FROM THAT JERK BOTHER ME AT ALL.
OF COURSE WE'LL INVESTIGATE AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS,
WELL, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR SAID—
YES, SIR. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE.
HEY, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THREATENING LETTERS?
EAVESDROPPING?


THATS RIGHT. ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF HE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT HIMSELF.
RECENTLY HE BROKE OFF A CONTRACT WITH ONE OF THE FIRMS HE SUBCONTRACTS TO. POSSIBLY THESE LETTERS ARE RELATED TO THAT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
MY FATHER IS BEING THREATENED?
I'M WORRIED. THE CONTENTS ARE BECOMING MORE EXTREME.
THE PRESIDENT KNOWS OF ONE OR TWO, BUT ACTUALLY MORE HAVE ARRIVED
.....
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FATHER.
...BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, HE DOESN'T WANT TO TELL THE DIRECTORS ABOUT IT.
THE PRESIDENT WON'T TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY...

KATSUHIRO-SAN, HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY LATELY?
HUH?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE TOO CONCERNED, BUT THESE LETTERS ALSO MENTION FAMILY MEMBERS.
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANY STRANGE PEOPLE AROUND OR ANYTHING?
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT'S PRECIOUS SON, AFTER ALL..
OF COURSE I DO.

WHAT?
.....
A CERTAIN PRIVATE SECRETARY HAS DONE SOME PRETTY STRANGE THINGS TO ME.
OH, THERE IS ONE WEIRDO.
.....
FFFF
COME ON, THAT WASN'T SO STRANGE, WAS IT?

DID YOU CUT YOUR HAIR A LITTLE?
IT LOOKS GOOD.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME, I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE. GOOD NIGHT.
STEP
OH DON'T GO ANYWHERE WITH STRANGERS.

HE'S MAKING FUN OF ME...
FATHER'S TALENTED PRIVATE SECRETARY...
WHEN WAS IT I STARTED CARING ABOUT HIM?
ONCE HE KISSED ME IN THE CAR...
KISSED ME AND...

TREATS ME LIKE A KID, AND MAKES FUN OF ME.
HE LOOKS RIGHT THROUGH ME, AS USUAL.
HE ACTS LIKE NOTHING EVEN HAPPENED.
BUT THAT DIDN'T CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE.

HUH...?
RUN
what is it?
RUN
RUN
WIFE!
RUN
RUN
SLAM
WHAT IS ALL THIS!...
...ACRID SMOKE?
FIRST AID

OVER HERE, YOSHIZAKI.
Please excuse me...
IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?
IT WAS DEFINITELY ARSON?
YEAH. THE PLACE WAS DOUSED IN GASOLINE.
IT WAS DETECTED QUICKLY, SO DAMAGE WAS LIMITED TO AN AREA NEAR THE KITCHEN...
BUT NO WAY DID I EXPECT IT TO COME TO THIS.
IT'S UNINHABITABLE UNTIL REPAIRS ARE MADE, AND ANYWAY, UNTIL THEY CATCH THE CULPRIT, IT'S DANGEROUS TO STAY HERE.
FOR THE TIME BEING MY WIFE WILL RETURN TO HER PARENTS' HOME IN KYUSHU.
SOB

...NEXT WEEK IS EXAM WEEK AT SCHOOL.
AND I'M SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR EUROPE TOMORROW. THE PROBLEM IS KATSUHIRO.
MY WIFE IS WORRIED, BUT SHE CAN'T VERY WELL TAKE HIM TO KYUSHU WHEN ..
KATSUHIRO, YOUR POSITION IN SCHOOL IS PRECARIOUS
I'M BEGGING YOU TO FOCUS ON YOUR EXAMS.
SHE'D LIKE HIM TO STAY WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, INSTEAD OF BEING ALONE AT A HOTEL.
I'LL BE FINE.
HUH?
BUT PRESIDENT, IF I'LL BE LEAVING WITH YOU TOMORROW—
ONCE HE'S ON HIS OWN HE'LL DO NOTHING BUT CALL FRIENDS AND STAY UP LATE.
YOU TRUST ME AS MUCH AS EVER.

NO WAY.
I'LL HAVE TO MAKE DUE WITH ANOTHER TRAVEL COMPANION THIS TIME. I'M ENTRUSTING THE COMPANY AND KATSUHIRO TO YOUR CARE.
By the way, see that he studies.
SNAP JUDGEMENT
I UNDERSTAND.
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
I TIDIED UP A LITTLE, AND BROUGHT IN A SOFA-BED AND A DESK.

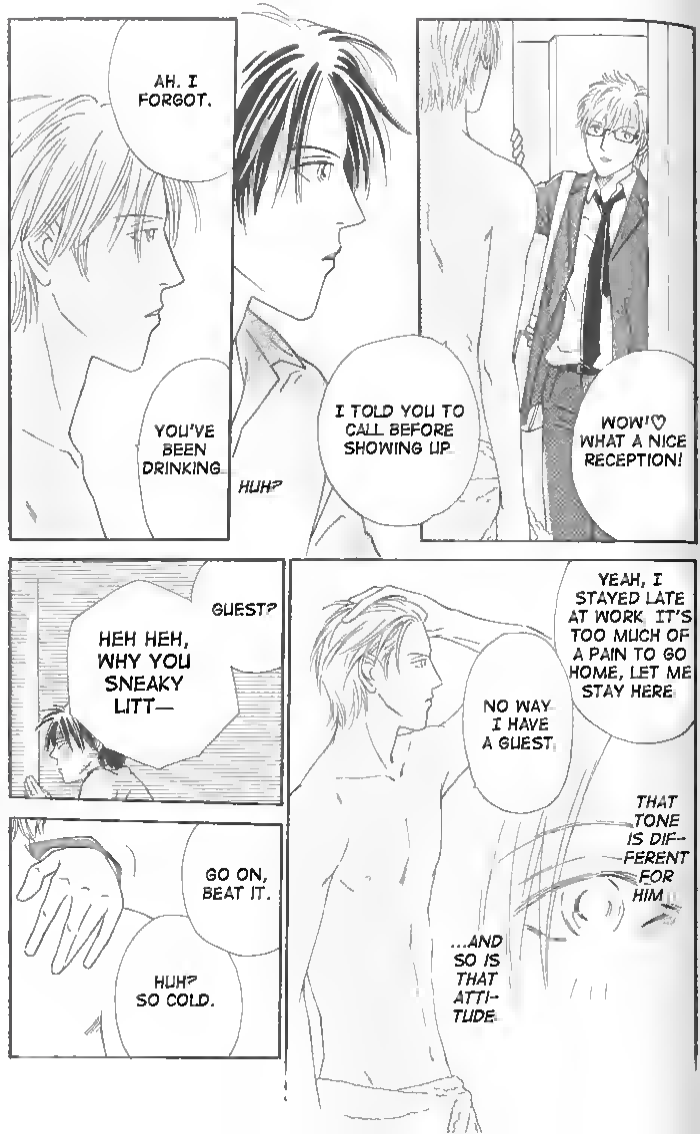
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU MIGHT NEED.
SURE.
.....
?
WHAT IS IT?
I'M GLAD YOU REALLY WEREN'T INJURED.
THOSE THREATENING LETTERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH MORE CAREFULLY.
DID MY FATHER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NO...
...WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE FIRE, YOUR FACE WAS THE FIRST THING I THOUGHT OF.

CLOSE
WHAT THE... WHY SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
STUDYING?
JUST SOME HOME-WO—
IT S FINE TO TURN OFF THE TV IF YOU WANT

I HEAR THE PRESIDENT HIRED A TOP-NOTCH TUTOR FOR YOU.
AND YOU HAD HIM FIRED.
FFF
CAN YOU?
I CAN CONCEN-TRATE BETTER WITH IT ON.
.....
KIND OF...
THAT GUY WAS CREEPY
..HANDSY. TOUCHING ME ALL THE TIME.
?
CREEPY..?

IT'S BETTER TO REPORT SOMEONE LIKE THAT, AND HAVE HIM TAKEN CARE OF. OTHERWISE HE'LL JUST CARRY ON IN THE SAME WAY ELSEWHERE.
THINK
NO WAY WOULD I TELL HIM THAT.
DID YOU TELL THE PRESIDENT?
DON'T YOU SHARE A SIMILAR HOBBY?
.....
YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY ORNERY LATELY.

I'M GOING TO BED
THE PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED ME TO STAY UPDATED ON YOUR STUDIES, SO—
DOING MATH? DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
NO. NONE.
DING DONG
FLAP


AH. I FORGOT.
YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING.
HUH?
I TOLD YOU TO CALL BEFORE SHOWING UP.
WOW!♡ WHAT A NICE RECEPTION!
GUEST?
HEH HEH, WHY YOU SNEAKY LITT—
GO ON, BEAT IT.
HUH? SO COLD.
YEAH, I STAYED LATE AT WORK. IT'S TOO MUCH OF A PAIN TO GO HOME, LET ME STAY HERE.
NO WAY. I HAVE A GUEST.
THAT TONE IS DIF-FERENT FOR HIM.
...AND SO IS THAT ATTI-TUDE.

owl
owl owl owl
mmph
HEY. QUIT DICKING AROUND.
owl
owl
ARE YOU ASLEEP?
.....
KATSUHI-RO-SAN?
STEP
STEP
.....

SMACK
OW!
EVEN I CAN HAVE A NORMAL CONVERSATION WITH A FRIEND.
.....
LIKE *YOU'RE* SUCH AN INNOCENT LITTLE KITTEN
SPYING ON PEOPLE IS BAD MANNERS.

HE JUST CAME TO TALK WITH ME ABOUT HIS JOB...
..YOU KNOW WHAT?
FUCK IT I GIVE UP.

KISS
NGH...
YOU'RE A BAD BOY. YOU LIKE THAT?

I AM MAKING FUN OF YOU
CUT IT OUT! YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING FUN OF ME!
BUT...
...BELIEVE IT OR NOT...
...I CAN'T HELP IT, YOU'RE JUST SO CUTE.

IF A LINE ISN'T DRAWN...
.....
THAT'S BULLSHIT! DON'T CALL ME CUTE!
THEN, BELOVED.
THAT'S JUST BULLSHIT PRIVATE SECRETARY-STYLE!
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF...
...UNTIL YOU'RE NO LONGER A MINOR.
.....

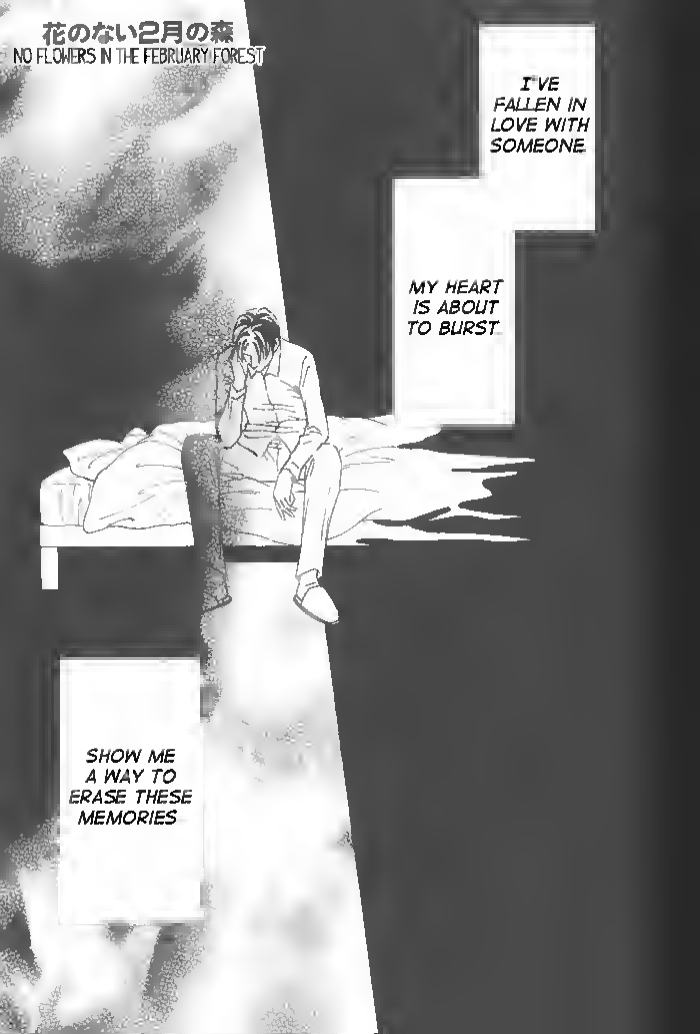
I THOUGHT..
..YOU DIDN'T..
YOU SHOULDN'T TELL ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
..WANT ME.
OR I REALLY WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP.

AAA
AH
AH
AH
AH
...!

TODAY THE PRESIDENT ASKED IF I WAS STILL KEEPING TABS ON YOU
SOMEHOW YOUR EXAM RESULTS MUST HAVE BEEN GOOD, SINCE HE THANKED ME
THANKED YOU FOR WHAT?

FATHER SAID WHAT!?
HE SUGGESTED THAT SINCE YOU'RE DOING SO WELL, YOU SHOULD STAY WITH ME PERMANENTLY. I REPLIED, "I UNDERSTAND."
MUST BE. I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM THANK ANYONE BEFORE.
HE'S COMPLETELY SATISFIED.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SHOCKED YOU WITH ONE OF MY JOKES.
IT WOULD SHOCK ME MORE IF YOU TOLD HIM THE TRUTH.

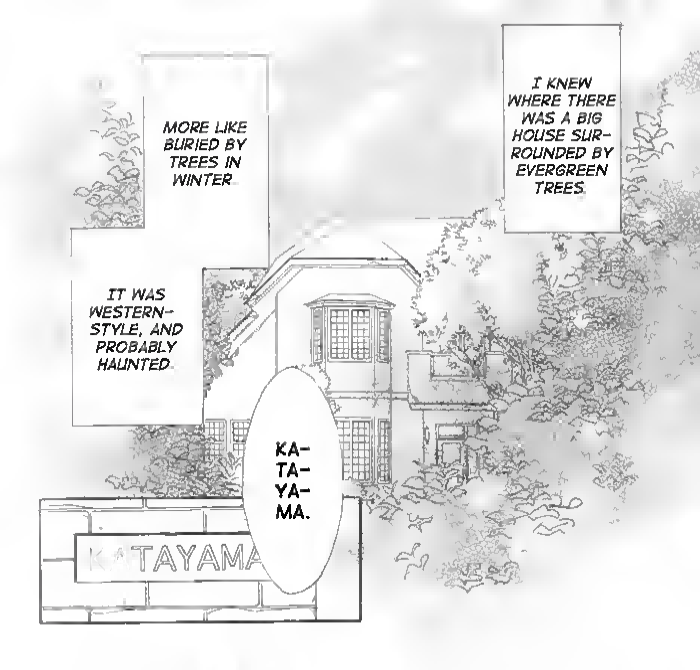
I'M SURE...
...HIS TRUE INTENTIONS INCLUDE LAUGHING AT ME 80% OF THE TIME
Pfft
THAT WOULD ALMOST BE WORTH LOSING MY JOB
Have you done your homework?
I'M IN LOVE
You sound like my dad.
MY STUDY OF ADULT LIFE BEGINS NOW
END


I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE
MY HEART IS ABOUT TO BURST
SHOW ME A WAY TO ERASE THESE MEMORIES

NO FLOWERS IN THE FEBRUARY FOREST
花のない2月の森

WOW, SATOSHI, YOU'RE IN FOURTH GRADE ALREADY?
THAT WENT BY FAST, HUH?
EVERY WINTER, MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO VISIT MY GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE
I WAS AN ONLY CHILD, AND THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER CHILDREN IN THE AREA.
ISOLATED
ISOLATED
Not too many houses.
.....
BUT IF WE DIDN'T VISIT GRANDPA, I WOULDN'T GET ANY NEW YEAR'S CASH.
There aren't even any bugs in winter.
Boring.

<THE CUSTOM OF GIVING CASH TO CHILDREN AS A NEW YEAR'S GIFT IS CALLED OTOSHIDAMA >


I KNEW WHERE THERE WAS A BIG HOUSE SURROUNDED BY EVERGREEN TREES.
MORE LIKE BURIED BY TREES IN WINTER.
IT WAS WESTERN-STYLE, AND PROBABLY HAUNTED.
KA-TA-YA-MA.
KATAYAMA

UH...
SLIP
SHAKY
SHAKY
THAT YEAR I WAS FINALLY JUST TALLER THAN THE WALL AROUND IT

OW...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
BOW
.....
NO... NOTHING.
WHAT'S WRONG?
SOMETHING SMELLS NICE...
BRUSH
BRUSH

I TRAMPLED THE GARDEN.
OH..!
I'M SORRY. . . VERY.
DON'T WORRY, THE GODDESS OF THE GARDEN FLOWER BLOSSOMS WON'T TAKE OFFENSE...
...OVER A FEW LEAVES.
NOW...
SHAAA
WASH WASH
THERE YOU GO!

heh
MY TEETH IT MAKES THEM HURT.
HUH? OH, YOU DON'T LIKE THE ANTISEPTIC?
DOES IT HURT?
.....
SNIFF
IT SMELLS LIKE THE DENTIST
FSSH
hee hee
NOW MY BANDAGE SMELLED LIKE THE ONIISAN
I HAD NEVER COME ACROSS THAT TYPE OF SEDUCTIVE SCENT DRIFTING THROUGH THE AIR
WITHOUT EVEN BEING AWARE OF IT, I SUSPECT I BECAME INTOXICATED.

AN ONIISAN?
THE MASTER OF THAT HOUSE LIVES ALONE. A HOUSEKEEPER LOOKS AFTER HIM.
HUH.?
I CAN'T GO TODAY.
SATOSHI, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE BEEN TO THE BATHHOUSE TOGETHER.
MAYBE LIVING ALONE OUT HERE IN THE STICKS CHANGED HIM.
MUNCH MUNCH
I'VE HEARD A NUMBER OF STORIES ABOUT HIM. SOME SAY HE OWNED A CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS.
THERE'S A SON, BUT HE DOESN'T VISIT.
KATAYAMA
SINCE HE BOUGHT THAT VACANT HOUSE A FEW YEARS AGO HE HASN'T SOCIALIZED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. HE'S ECCENTRIC.
I WONDER ABOUT THAT OLD MAN.
Is this even a neighborhood...?

THE OLD MAN. HE'S SICK, ISN'T HE.
hmm
hmm
I COULDN'T SAY HOW, BUT I JUST KNEW...
...THE OLD MAN WASN'T THE ONIIS...N'S FATHER.

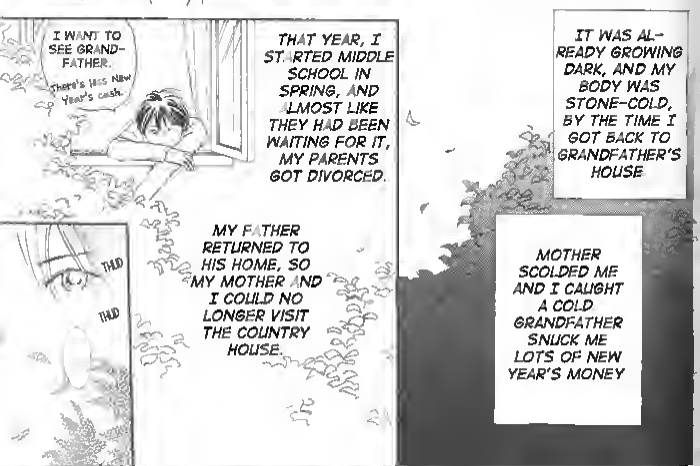
THE NEXT WINTER OUR FAMILY WENT SKIING
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME OUR FAMILY WENT SKIING
BUT IT WAS FUN, AND I FORGOT ABOUT GRANDFATHER'S NEW YEAR'S CASH, AND THE ONIISAN IN THE WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE
WHAT'S THAT?
SOME END-OF-THE-YEAR COMMOTION
...at the old man's
SATOSHI WILL BE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEXT YEAR IT DOES SEEM FAST
OH, OLD MAN KATAYAMA-SAN DIED SEEMS HE HAD BEEN IN A WHEELCHAIR FOR A LONG TIME
THAT WENT BY FAST, HUH?
OH, YOU MEAN SATOSHI, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN OVER A YEAR, HE'S GOTTEN BIG
I DON'T KNOW, WE HIT SOME HEAVY TRAFFIC ON THE WAY
SURELY HE WOULDN'T LEAVE EVERYTHING TO THE FOSTER SON
THE LAWYERS WILL BE COMING TO READ THE WILL
NEVER! HE'S NOT EVEN FAMILY.
IT WAS REALLY STRANGE AS SOON AS HE THOUGHT OF RETIRING TO HIS COUNTRY HOUSE, HIS BODY BROKE DOWN

HE WASN'T PROVIDING NURSING CARE?
PERSONALLY, I HEARD THE BOY WAS WORKING PART TIME AT ONE OF THE CHAIN PLACES. WHEN THE OLD MAN FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM AT FIRST SIGHT
AFTER ALL, WHAT WAS THE OLD MAN DOING WITH HIM? WHAT KIND OF FOSTER SON...
THAT CERTAINLY DIDN'T SEEM TO BE THE CASE
I REALLY WONDER ABOUT THE RUMORS
WITH ALL THEIR INSULTS AND TALK ABOUT MONEY, MY BLACK HATRED OF ADULTS WAS SOLIDIFYING
I ONLY UNDERSTOOD PARTS OF WHAT THEY MEANT.
GAY!? OH, COME ON!
ABOUT THE OLD MAN AND THAT ONIISAN.
ANYWAY, THEY WON'T LET HIM HAVE MORE THAN A MONTH TO CLEAR OUT.
PUSH
THUD
THUD
THE ONIISAN!?
THE ONIISAN.

THE LYCORIS THEY WERE HIS FAVORITE FLOWERS
WHAT FLOWERS WILL BLOOM?
DRIP
THE FLOWERS WILL STILL BLOOM NEXT YEAR, BUT...
.....
SLIDE
THE OLD MAN WASN'T STRANGE
HE WAS THIS ONIISAN'S FRIEND, LIKE ME

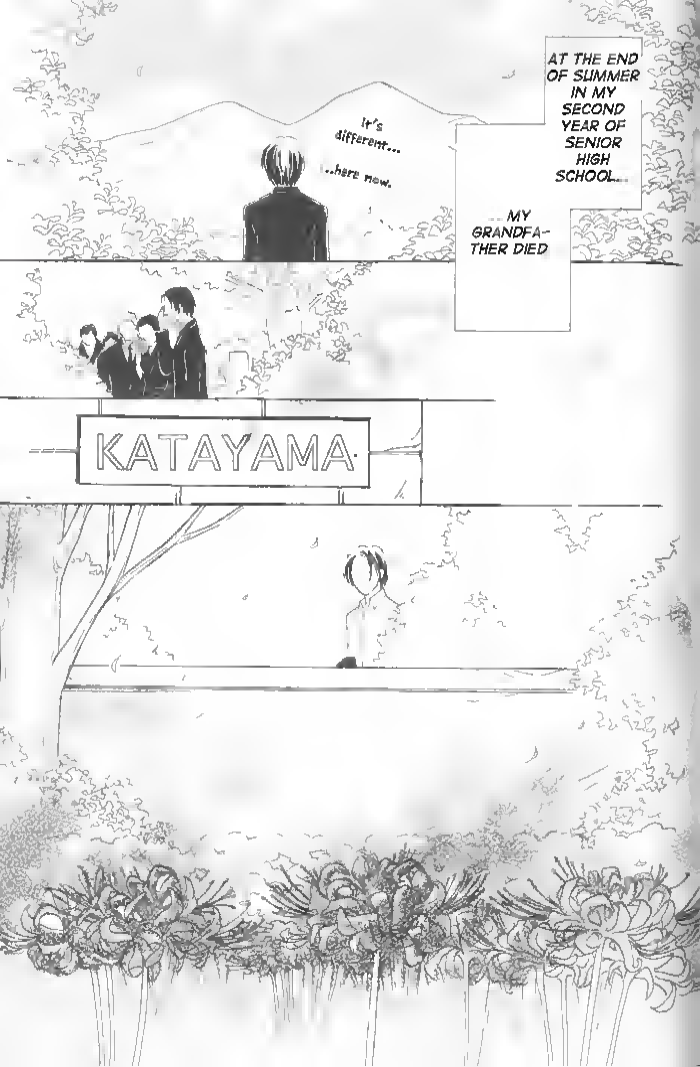
<LYCORIS IS THE GENUS OF SPIDER LILIES, NATIVE TO JAPAN AND OTHER PARTS OF ASIA >

I WAS SERIOUSLY AFRAID THAT YOU WOULD FREEZE, LOST IN A DREAM, IF I LET GO.
TEARS STREAMED DOWN YOUR FACE, IN PROFILE, AS YOU GAZED ACROSS THE GARDEN WHERE THE OLD MAN'S FLOWERS HAD BLOOMED.
THE GARDEN IN WINTER... THE ONLY WARMTH CAME FROM HOLDING EACH OTHER'S HANDS.

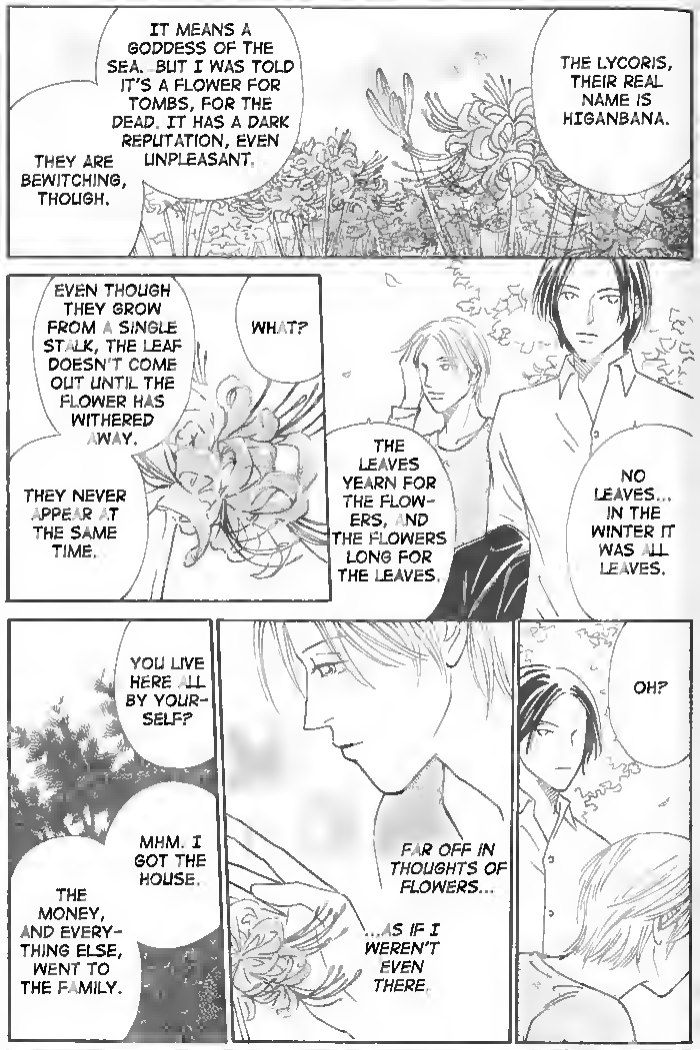

I WANT TO SEE GRANDFATHER.
There's his New Year's cash.
THAT YEAR, I STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SPRING, AND ALMOST LIKE THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR IT, MY PARENTS GOT DIVORCED.
IT WAS ALREADY GROWING DARK, AND MY BODY WAS STONE-COLD, BY THE TIME I GOT BACK TO GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE.
THUD
THUD
MY FATHER RETURNED TO HIS HOME, SO MY MOTHER AND I COULD NO LONGER VISIT THE COUNTRY HOUSE.
MOTHER SCOLDED ME AND I CAUGHT A COLD
GRANDFATHER SNUCK ME LOTS OF NEW YEAR'S MONEY

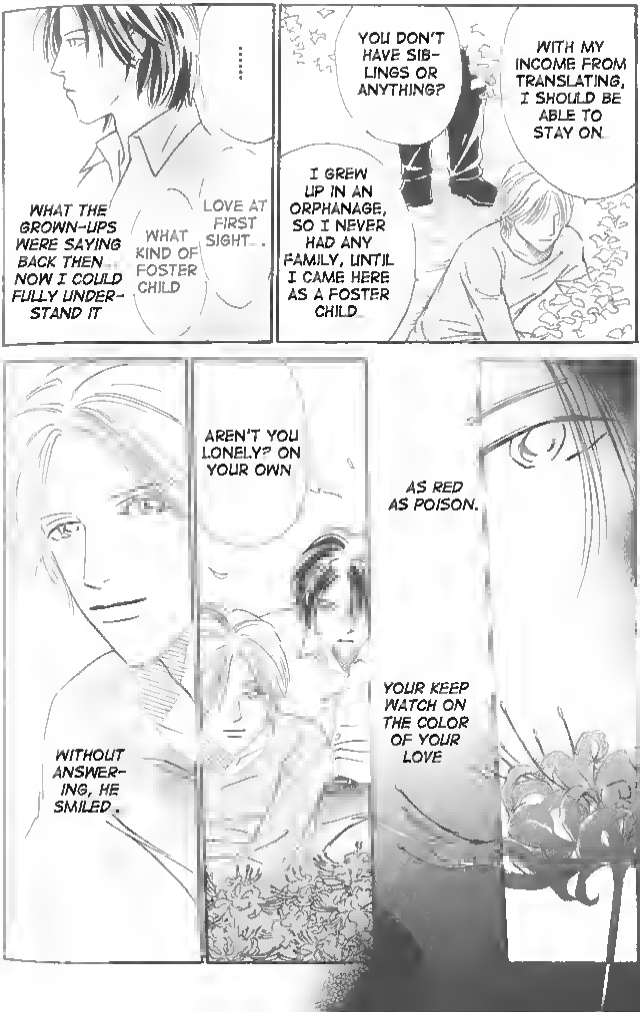
I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE, LIVING WITH THE LYCORIS...
ALONE IN THAT BIG HOUSE, BURIED IN THE TREES...
THE ONIISAN...
YOU'LL TURN ALL THE GIRLS IN CLASS AGAINST YOU, YOU KNOW.
ARE YOU KIDDING? BASTARD...
I THOUGHT I LIKED HER, BUT THEN WE WENT OUT AND I DIDN'T REALLY
YOU WAVED!?
SINCE SHE LIKES YOU, THAT'S LIKE SAYING "OK" TO HER CONFESSION!
HUH...?
THEY'RE ALSO CALLED HIGANBANA
Scientific name?
OH, THE RED ONES? THEY BLOOM ON GRAVES...
HEY, YOU KNOW LYCORIS?
THE FLOWER?

<THE LATIN NAME FOR HIGANBANA IS AMARYLLIDACEAE >


AT THE END OF SUMMER IN MY SECOND YEAR OF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL...
...MY GRANDFATHER DIED
It's different...
...here now.
KATAYAMA

NO
.....
They're blooming like crazy
CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOME-THING?
OH...
BY NOW I HAD GROWN...
...MUCH TALLER THAN THE WALL, EVEN TALLER THAN HIM
DOES HE REMEM-BER ME?


THE LYCORIS, THEIR REAL NAME IS HIGANBANA.
IT MEANS A GODDESS OF THE SEA. BUT I WAS TOLD IT'S A FLOWER FOR TOMBS, FOR THE DEAD. IT HAS A DARK REPUTATION, EVEN UNPLEASANT.
THEY ARE BEWITCHING, THOUGH.
NO LEAVES... IN THE WINTER IT WAS ALL LEAVES.
THE LEAVES YEARN FOR THE FLOWERS, AND THE FLOWERS LONG FOR THE LEAVES.
WHAT?
EVEN THOUGH THEY GROW FROM A SINGLE STALK, THE LEAF DOESN'T COME OUT UNTIL THE FLOWER HAS WITHERED AWAY.
THEY NEVER APPEAR AT THE SAME TIME.
OH?
FAR OFF IN THOUGHTS OF FLOWERS...
...AS IF I WEREN'T EVEN THERE.
YOU LIVE HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?
MHM. I GOT THE HOUSE.
THE MONEY, AND EVERYTHING ELSE, WENT TO THE FAMILY.


.....
WHAT THE GROWN-UPS WERE SAYING BACK THEN... NOW I COULD FULLY UNDERSTAND IT
WHAT KIND OF FOSTER CHILD
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...
YOU DON'T HAVE SIBLINGS OR ANYTHING?
I GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE, SO I NEVER HAD ANY FAMILY, UNTIL I CAME HERE AS A FOSTER CHILD.
WITH MY INCOME FROM TRANSLATING, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO STAY ON.
AREN'T YOU LONELY? ON YOUR OWN
WITHOUT ANSWERING, HE SMILED.
AS RED AS POISON.
YOUR KEEP WATCH ON THE COLOR OF YOUR LOVE

...MYSTERIOUSLY.
HE WAS BEAUTIFUL.
THEY WERE STRANGE, THE FLOWERS.
THEIR BLOSSOMS HAD NO ODOR
ARE YOU INTOXICATED BY THE FLOWERS?
THERE WAS ONLY THE SCENT OF YOUR FRAGRANCE.

TOPPLE
NGH..!
WAIT!
WAI—
AH...!
...WHAT IS IT...!?
...I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU...

ahh...
ahh
ah...
SHOVE
SHOVE

ONCE I STEPPED THROUGH THAT GATE...
...I'D RETURN TO REALITY.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS?
THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES, LIKE "SAD MEMORIES," AND "THINKING ONLY OF YOU."
THE SHORT FLOWER SEASON WAS OVER...
...LEAVING ONLY UNFAMILIAR FOLIAGE IN THE LUSH GARDEN.
THE CRIMSON FLOWERS HAD LASTED ONLY ONE NIGHT.

FLOWERS FADE...
FOR ME TOO...
...THAT RED BECAME SAD MEMORIES.
...WOULD HE LIVE THAT WAY FOR-EVER?
WRAPPED IN THE LINGER-ING SPELL OF A DEEP LOVE...
YAMA

I CAN'T HELP IT, I GET TIED UP EVERY DAY.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
HEY...
...
WHAT, THEN?
IT'S NOT JUST THAT!
JUST STARTING AT THE COMPANY. I HAVE A LOT ON MY MIND

..TELL ME WHAT'S—
WHO IS IT I'M COMPETING WITH!?
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.
MY HEART IS ABOUT TO BURST.
THIS KIND OF SCENE PLAYED OUT OVER AND OVER AGAIN
SOMEHOW, I NEED TO ERASE THAT COLOR. .
. .TO EXTINGUISH THAT RED.

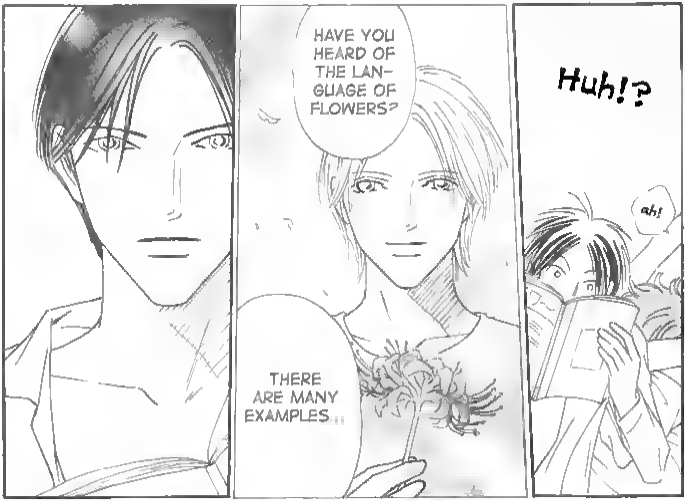
Shut up!
Ah ha ha!
HEY, HOW'S IT GOING?
THUNK
WHOA, YOU LOOK LIKE CRAP. IT'S YOUR FACE—
.....
GRAB
HUH...?
THIS SCENT...

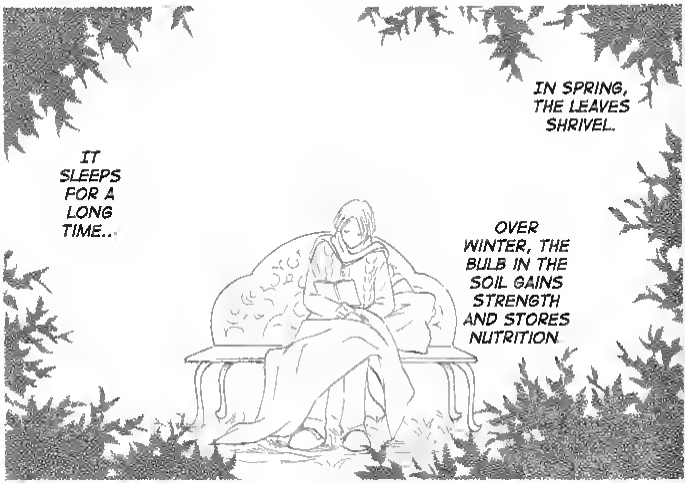
<THE HOTEL NAME, ホテル一香, HOTEL IKKA, CONTAINS THE KANJI FOR SCENT, 香.>

AHH!
AHH
AH...
AHH

WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE WEARING?
THE FRAGRANCE
OH, YOU DON'T LIKE IT? SORRY, SOME PEOPLE DON'T LIKE PRETTY SCENTS.
GETS UP
HUH?
AH, I EDITED THAT ISSUE.
FLOWERS
FROM THE HEART FEATURING ARRANGEMENTS
CLUNK
SAD MEMORIES..
HOW TO SAY I LOVE YOU IN THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

HIGANBANA HAS MORE THAN ONE MEANING. "BYGONE DAYS," "THINKING ONLY OF YOU,"
"RESIG-NATION."
LET'S CHECK, THERE'S OODLES YOU CAN SAY IN THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS.
INTER-ESTED? WHAT A SURPRISE
Cute!
FLOWERS
HIGAN-BANA IN THE LAN-GUAGE OF FLOW-ERS...
HM?
FLOWERS
"LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY WE MEET AGAIN."
"REUNION."
"INDEPEN-DENCE."
FORGET IT.
.....


HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS?
THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES..
Huh!?
ah!

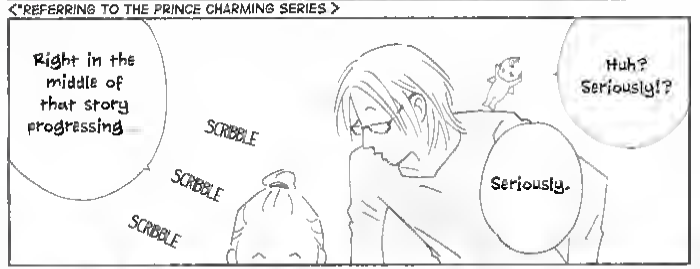

IT SLEEPS FOR A LONG TIME..
OVER WINTER, THE BULB IN THE SOIL GAINS STRENGTH AND STORES NUTRITION
IN SPRING, THE LEAVES SHRIVEL.

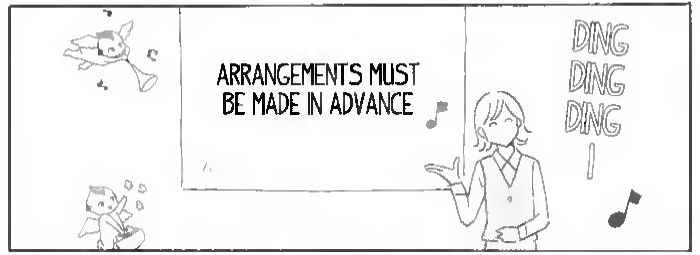
WAITING FOR YOU.
WAITING FOR THE DAY.
...WAITING FOR THE DAY NEW FLOWERS BLOOM IN THE GARDEN.
. THERE CAN BE A NEW LOVE.
END

WE REALLY BOUGHT ONE.
I CAN OFFER YOU MY HOSPITALITY, BUT I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT PLANTS
Is that true?
THIS WILL GROW ABOUT TWO METERS TALL, YOU KNOW.
Chibi-chan
OHH..
—WELL THEN, I'LL COME TAKE CARE OF IT EVERY DAY SO IT DOESN'T WITHER AWAY.

THE MAN WHO MISSED OUT ON HAPPINESS
幸せになりそこねた男
KISS ♡
HMM, JUST A SEC
WHAT'S WRONG?
.....
WHAT'S IT MATTER, NOW THAT YOU HAVE YOUR HAPPINESS
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
BACKSTAGE
HEY, WHAT THE HELL, IS THIS TITLE ABOUT ME?

<*REFERRING TO THE PRINCE CHARMING SERIES>





I had a lot of series going.
Huh?
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
Huh?
So you see, it was various business reasons.
I found out it was bad timing anyway.
SLEEP
SLEEP
SLEEP
Z Z Z
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
But that means skipping over a lot of time!
Hmm.
I'll do a little summer vacation story for the Christmas issue.
Well, that's just great for me.
Life is rough.
Best of luck.
So it was nipped in the bud.
Releases are sensitive to the seasons of the official school calendar.
I have no idea where your happiness came from.
You seem pretty happy.
What about my happiness?
END

Count up to ten
when you fall in love.

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好きになったら10まで数えろ3	2007年花音12月号
紳士のたしなみ	2007年ラブテク⑫乙男特集
オトナのクチビル	2007年ラブテク⑬側近特集
花のない2月の森	2008年花音2月号
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花音コミックス◆

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